

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COLUMBIA DIVISION

Cassandra Harrison-Belk,  
Beverly Jean Harrison,  
and Tanquonya Moaney as Special Administratrix  
for the Estate of Laniece Marie Moaney,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Rockhaven Community Care  
Home, Inc. and Richie Barnes,

Defendants.

C/A No. 3:07-54-CMC

**AMENDED  
OPINION AND ORDER  
GRANTING MOTION FOR  
PRE- AND POSTJUDGMENT  
INTEREST**

This matter is before the court on Plaintiffs’ motion for an award of prejudgment and postjudgment interest.<sup>1</sup> For purposes of resolving this motion the court will presume that Defendant Richie Barnes’ (Barnes) filing, “Objection to Cost,” Dkt. No. 132, responds to Plaintiffs’ motion for attorney’s fees. The court has carefully reviewed Barnes’s arguments and finds each to be without merit. Defendants Barnes and Rockhaven Community Care Home, Inc. are jointly and severally liable for damages awarded in this case. *See* Dkt. No. 54. For the reasons stated below, the motion is **granted**.

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<sup>1</sup> This caption is a correction of the prior caption to include the substitution of Tanquonya Moaney as Special Administratrix of the Estate of Laniece Marie Moaney. *See* Dkt. No. 81.

### PREJUDGMENT INTEREST

In the absence of a statutory mandate, the award of prejudgment interest is discretionary with the court. *Quesinberry v. Life Ins. Co. of North Am.*, 987 F.2d 1017, 1030-31 (4th Cir. 1993) (*en banc*). The jury found Defendant Barnes' violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.*, to be willful. Furthermore, given that the nature of damages was nonpayment of wages in addition to Defendant's willfulness, the court concludes that prejudgment interest is appropriate in this case.

Plaintiffs request that prejudgment interest be calculated at the judgment rate set by South Carolina law, which is 8.75% annually. S.C. Code Ann. § 34-31-20. The court agrees that this is a reasonable rate and awards prejudgment interest at 8.75% per year.

Prejudgment interest will be calculated on \$5223.16, the full amount awarded to Plaintiffs,<sup>2</sup> with accrual from the last day of the three-year period during which Plaintiffs were entitled to payment for back wages and is chosen due to the difficulty of calculating prejudgment interest on a weekly basis. Accrual of prejudgment interest will continue through the date of entry of judgment in this matter.

### POSTJUDGMENT INTEREST

Plaintiffs are entitled to postjudgment interest as mandated by statute. 28 U.S.C. § 1961. The interest rate will be calculated from the date of entry of judgment using the statutory rate for the week preceding the date of judgment. *Id.* at § 1961(a). Interest shall accrue on the entire judgment,

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<sup>2</sup> Based on the jury's verdict, the court awarded Plaintiff Harrison \$2003.63 in back wages, Plaintiff Moaney \$607.95 in back wages, and Plaintiff Belk no back wages. Those amounts were doubled to comply with the liquidated damages provision of the FLSA, resulting in an individual award to Plaintiff Harrison of \$4007.26, and an individual award to Plaintiff Moaney of \$1215.90, which combine to form a total award of \$5223.16.

including prejudgment interest, *Quesinberry*, 987 F.2d at 1031, and attorney's fees, Local Civil Rule 54.02(B), S.C.D.

### CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the court awards prejudgment interest to each Plaintiff at the annual rate of 8.75% from January 8, 2007, until the entry of judgment, and awards postjudgment interest on the total judgment amount until such time as fully paid at the average weekly interest rate in effect in the week preceding the entry of judgment.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

S/ Cameron McGowan Currie  
CAMERON MCGOWAN CURRIE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Columbia, South Carolina  
July 31, 2008